

COLUMBUS TRANSPORTATION AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
50 WEST GAY STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM B, 1ST FLOOR
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015
5:00 P.M

Present Were: Val Croasmun, Lori Duguid, Steve Simmons, Kevin Wood

Advisory Member: Lt. Harris

Executive Secretary: Patti Austin

Department of Public Service: JP Blackwood

Division of Infrastructure Management Staff:

Division of Traffic Management Staff: Amanda Ford

Division of Design and Construction:

Guest Speakers: Tricia Kovacs

CALL TO ORDER: 5:05 p.m.

Everyone was given a moment to review notes of February 10, 2015.

Steve Simmons complimented Kelly Cramer on the thoroughness of the meeting notes.

MINUTES

Steve asked for a motion to approve the February 2015 minutes.

Motion to Approve – Wood

Second – Croasmun

Motion Carries

Action Items

No items

Old Business

No items

New Business

Introduction of New Staff:

The creation of the Parking Services Coordinator position came as part of the reorganization in July. Mike Mercurio is the coordinator for the Parking Violations Bureau. He handles day to day tasks there. The Parking Services Coordinator handles more policy type issues. This position will also expand policies and work with neighborhoods. The Short North Parking Study is a good

example of the need for someone to fill this role and move things forward. Amanda Ford was introduced to everyone. She comes from Public Safety. Amanda is supervising Keith Keeran and Michael Tran. She is in charge of residential permit parking requests, work with our Parking Meter Advisory Team (which will be moved under the T&PC). Loading zones, valet zones, parking meters, parking rates will fall under Amanda. If you have an issue that involves a meter or a parking situation, Amanda is the point of contact. Steve welcomed her to the team. Amanda will attend T&PC meetings when she has items on the agenda. There will be some requests for parking permits since the moratorium is passing the end of March. Since the Short North Parking Study didn't flush out the new process, Amanda will continue working under the old process, but will also work on the new process. There are 3 or 4 items that will be brought up at the Parking Meter Advisory Team meeting to be scheduled the end of March/early April. When moratorium ends, when can we expect to see all of the requests? Patti said we will see some in April. Recommendations are being finalized. Amanda is working with them on the final draft report, implementation plan and the financing plan. One of the things the implementation plan includes is doing things in the right steps; for instance, we need to figure out employee parking options before we raise rates, or before we open up residential parking permit areas to visitors because we don't want to flood them with employee parking. We will entertain all requests, but applicants need to be fully aware whatever we entertain will be looked at on an interim solution until we work out the ultimate solution. So they know it could change dramatically once we look at wider areas. We have been informally doing that with groups. There is a group near Children's Hospital that want one street posted for 2 hour parking to get Children's Hospital employees off their street. We told them they need to work with their neighborhood and come back to us with a wider area. We aren't going to just entertain one street. Even though technically they can submit that kind of thing, you as the Commission have the power to say yes or no. The Director also needs to approve or disapprove those. Kevin – when will new policy be implemented? Patti said at least this time next year. It will take a lot of neighborhood group involvement. We have at least 10 meetings to schedule. We will meet with each group separately and talk about their issues.

Paving the Way Update:

JP Blackwood went through a list of construction projects. He brought business cards. Please contact him with any questions that come up later. Paving the Way is federally funded and hosted by the City of Columbus. Also supported by ODOT and MORPC. Our funding comes from Federal Highways through ODOT, and Columbus has a 20% match. Kelly called me and asked me to give highlights of what's coming up. Number 1 mission is to get the word out on construction and provide tips on how to get through it. On any given day you might experience road construction from ODOT, City of Columbus, Franklin County, Worthington or another township or railroads, etc. There are literally dozens of jurisdictions doing construction. We try to be a one-stop-shop of information on that construction. Pavingtheway.org is the website. Every day through the construction season we provide updates. Also beyond road construction we promote safety in the work zone. There are narrow lanes, and people working in those zones. Sometimes another route is the best plan. We also try to do demand reduction – encouraging people to share a ride. Franklin County has 1 million cars for 1 million people. We are a driving society. One solution might be build more roads, but another is to get more out of the roads we have by using alternative transportation. We also try to promote general things about the roads – anything to reduce congestion. We have contacted Lt. Harris about what messages we need to get out such as if your wipers are on your lights are on, etc.

You are holding in your hands the newest edition of the Glove Box Guide. Two most common complaints we receive are: you are not fixing my road, or you are fixing my road. Going to start

by talking about several big projects. Some of these projects are outside of the City of Columbus limits because we do help get the word out for these projects as well. We are starting with Northwest.

- A large project is the complete reconfiguration of the NW intersection up at US33 and 161 at I270 by Dublin. There will be significant restrictions and a complete road closure. There was not a good affordable way to keep it open. The “north side mega fix” – interchange on the north side of north High Street and I270 they are building a big trench. Funnel traffic down below grade. That is the reconfiguration of 315 @ 270. That is a really big improvement. It does involve some long term 60 day closures. 270 east to 315 north and SR315 south ramp to 270 east ramp. Getting rid of clover leaf interchanges. There will be more space to make maneuvers.
- Reconstruction of I70 out west Hilliard Rome Road to Wilson Road. (both east and west). That project will start early fall for a couple of years.
- Franklin County has intersection improvements at Fishinger and Dublin Roads. Riggins Road is in the Dublin area.
- Another huge project is 161 and Riverside Drive. This is a huge redevelopment. Original plan was to close 161, but there was enough community concern they were able to make changes to the plan. Another thing to promote in PTW – maintenance of traffic costs money. Maintaining traffic and keeping things safe is a huge cost.
- Roundabout will go in at SR 161 and Eiterman Road in Dublin. How do people feel about roundabouts? Some people do not know how to drive in them. There are videos to promote safe use of the roundabouts. Roundabouts lead to a modest decrease in accidents, but dramatic decrease in major accidents (not as many t-bone accidents). Also good for pedestrians.

How is Dublin coordinating 33 to 161 closure? They have talked and presented many times how the projects fit together and which parts will be open when.

Dublin has many roundabouts. They can be expensive with land purchase.

- Hard Road widening is a large project. This is the last phase between Sawmill and Smokey Row. Most of that work is in Columbus. Dublin has a project on Hard and Sawmill they are including in this project. Smokey Row is getting sidewalks.
- W. 5th Avenue will be closed around Dublin Road. It also involves a new shared use path. Might push people over to Trabue.
- Olentangy River Road shared use path between John Herrick Drive and Lane Avenue.
- OSU is rehabilitating the bridge over the Olentangy.
- Tremont Road between Kenny and Ridgeview Road starts this summer and ends next summer.
- Powell Road complete reconstruction, Old State to Worthington Road.
- Home Road realignment with US 23 is a large project.
- Worthington Road widening from Powell to Africa Road.
- Sawmill Parkway extension for Delaware County.
- 315 is getting some repairs from Ackerman to I270. Most of that major ramp closures will be at night.
- Bexley is reconstructing east Broad Street which starts in April.
- Ferris and Cleveland

- Joyce and 17th. Work on 17th is completed, but more to come. This is Phase II. There will be a one-way pattern on Joyce. Factors looked at are schools and emergency vehicles.
- Phase III will be from south of Hudson to where this project is on the north.
- 270 Cleveland Avenue interchange project continues. There will be new restrictions starting Thursday. 2 lanes northbound, but only 1 lane southbound.
- Ohio, Champion and Linwood bridge – new mesh to make it last longer.
- 270 south to west bound Main Street (closed for bridge replacement).
- Beach Road widening between Smith's Mill Road north and Jug Street, New Albany.
- Hamilton Road widening, Franklin County. Will be widened to 5 lanes. 60 day closure of northbound Hamilton Road.
- East Main Street Gateway project in Whitehall.
- Hudson Street Bridge will be replaced over I-71. Remember 17th at I71 back when they rehabbed the bridge? It was difficult for pedestrians – 1 mile detour. Pedestrians would hop the ramp. Trying to get the word out on this closure. Hudson will be closed at the highway. School buses may also travel this way. Webber Road tracks are too high to cross for buses. Steve said that will need discussion.
- US33 heading to Lancaster is the Carrol Interchange.
- SR256 improvements in Pickerington will be done mostly at night.
- Parsons Avenue street rehabilitation carries a lot of pedestrian traffic. There will be lane restrictions.
- An intersection improvement and pedestrian crossing project will be constructed on Chatterton Road at Fontaine Road and Reynard Road. Chatterton Road traffic will be maintained. Franklin county project from spring 2015 to fall 2015. They are installing a rapid flashing beacon. Columbus does have a rapid flashing beacon within City limits. It flashes with a rapid pattern (strobe) that gets your attention.
- Bixby and Brice will connect at Winchester Pike in the same place.
- W. Broad Street at I270.
- I71 widening between Stringtown and 665.
- New roundabout near Grove City: Alkire and Demorest, Franklin County project.
- Orders Road will be widened between Old Haughn Road and Discovery Drive.
- Grove City doing minor improvements on Broadway. A few lane restrictions there.
- Southwest Boulevard in Grove City also.
- Culvert replacement for Broadway (US62) in Grove City at Casa Boulevard.
- Best for last: Resurfacing project on US23 and to have the first fully separated bike lane in Columbus between downtown and East Hudson Street.
- Many resurfacing projects going on in Columbus

Please go to pavingtheway.org for more information. You can also subscribe and adjust to receive what you want. There is a Facebook page and every time one of us shares or likes our post, it helps get the word out and keeps people safe. We also do Twitter. JP left business cards for any further questions.

Steve mentioned that from a school transportation piece, all of these projects are huge. Steve could get their directors and GIS people to help adjust routing systems. This presentation to that audience would be huge. JP said they love to provide this presentation to groups. Steve is a subscriber.

Kevin asked, several years ago Third Street was resurfaced. The contractor worked throughout the night to avoid traffic. This was not pleasant for residents living downtown. There are many more residents downtown than there used to be. JP suggested speaking with Barry Waites and Mark DiPiero, as well as Ric Rossetti. Part of their job is to make sure contractors are following correct procedures. As well, Kevin can contact Patti Austin since Barry and Mark work in Traffic Management.

Other Business:

Ms. Patricia Kovacs was a guest speaker regarding the roundabouts by the Hamilton widening projects, and the rapid flashing beacon. Ms. Kovacs commented she was excited to see this.

JP wanted to add that there is a north trail closure. Go to ODOT's website www.270.23.com will provide more information.

Bicycle Working Group Update:

Lori Duguid provided an update. A meeting was held 2 weeks ago. Scott Ulrich talked about the bike pedestrian safety assessment and Mayor's challenge. In April there will be USDOT safety assessment. Scott and James Young will go to DC for the Mayor's challenge summit. The Summit Street protected bike lanes was brought back to the Bike Committee. They are still completely supportive.

Connect Columbus:

We issued a press release to start this project. Did interviews with Dispatch and Columbus Underground. Telling everyone to please comment during the process. Right now we are developing the goals and mission statement and "what do we want to accomplish". Nelson Nygaard will take current plans we have (Columbus Comprehensive plan, Bicentennial plan, etc. and use those to start conversations. There will be workshops on these the end of March and beginning of April. They were in the paper this morning and on the website www.columbus.gov/connectcolumbus. If you would like to start giving us feedback, the email is connect@columbus.gov. We've already received emails. Everyone has an opinion about transportation, so this is the time to give it to us. We are doing in cooperation with the Nextgen and MORPC's regional plan. These plans will complement each other.

At the corner of Winslow and Alum Creek flashing lights were removed (there was a school at one time). At that corner heading east they failed to put a stop sign up on Winslow going out to Alum Creek. Steve said he called it in to Tami.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Cramer
Recording Secretary

Steve Simmons
Chairperson

Patricia A. Austin
Executive Secretary

THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED; RECORDING IS ON FILE
AT 50 WEST GAY STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215